

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BUDAPE 00212 230926Z

22

ACTION TRSE-00

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SY-05 INR-07 CIAE-00 NSAE-00

USSS-00 L-03 /028 W

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P R 230655Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5096

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BUDAPEST 0212

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CFED

SUBJ: COUNTERFEIT DOLLARS

1. PRESS REPORTS JANUARY 22 HUNGARIAN POLICE HAVE ARRESTED TWO BELGIAN CITIZENS, LEON HENTZ (49), AN ART DEALER, AND SEPULCHER JACQUEST (40), A HOUSE PAINTER, ON CHARGES OF "ACUTE SUSPICION OF COUNTERFEITING." APPARENTLY, HENTZ HAS ENTERED HUNGARY ONCE EVERY OTHER MONTH DURING LAST FIVE YEARS TO BUY ANTIQUES AND ICONS. LAST SUMMER IN NORTHWEST HUNGARIAN TOWN OF GYOR HE SOLD \$50 TO A GIRL FRIEND ABOUT TO LEAVE FOR POLAND. IN POLAND MONEY TURNED OUT TO BE BOGUS, HENTZ, TOGETHER WITH JACQUES, ENTERED HUNGARY AGAIN AT END OF 1975 DRIVING HIS OWN CAR. ARRESTED, HE WAS FOUND TO HAVE \$50 AND \$100 BILLS, ALL FALSE, THEIR SERIAL NUMBERS ON AN INTERPOL LIST. MORE \$50 AND \$100 NOTES WERE UNCOVERED IN HENTZ'S HOTEL ROOM AND MORE FOUND HIDDEN IN A DOUBLE-BOTTOM VACUUM FLASK ON HENTZ'S COMPANION. BOTH MEN ARE UNDER INDICTMENT.

2. THE EMBASSY IS TAKING IMMEDIATE STEPS VIS-A-VIS THE HUNGARIAN AUTHORITIES AND BELGIAN CONSUL TO OBTAIN FIRM DETAILS AND WILL BE IN FURTHER CONTACT WITH DEPARTMENT IN DUE COURSE.
MCAULIFFE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 JAN 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976BUDAPE00212
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760026-0203
From: BUDAPEST
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760129/aaaaazby.tel
Line Count: 52
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION TRSE
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 1
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 MAR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <29 MAR 2004 by KelleyW0>; APPROVED <13 MAY 2004 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: COUNTERFEIT DOLLARS
TAGS: CFED
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006